



BAYVIEW PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENT

Minutes - Community Meeting #1

Wednesday, March 18, 2009, 7– 8:30 PM
Magnolia Community Center

Meeting Purpose: To present the project to the neighborhood and to discuss design options with community members. The project includes play area improvements for children ages 2-12, safety surfacing, improvements to accessibility and site improvements that may include picnic tables.

Attendees: Parks: Pam Alspaugh (Sr. Landscaper Architect), Virginia Hassinger (Project Manager), Becky Rufin (Parks Engineer) in audience. Audience: approximately 18 residents, including several families with children.

Overview: The project is one of the first projects funded by the 2008 Parks and Greenspace Levy to proceed. It is being accelerated as part of “Seattle Jobs Forward” initiative, the mayor’s action plan to create jobs and boost the local economy. The project will provide play area improvements for children ages 2-12, including safety surfacing, play equipment, improvements to accessibility, and site improvements that may include picnic tables, bbq, benches. It will be designed by Seattle Parks Sr. Landscape architect Pamela Alspaugh and built by a private contractor. We want to be sure we have community input prior to design. Our goal is to provide improvements to the park that will make the park and play area a desirable place to gather and play. We would like the play equipment to provide good play value and a different experience than other Magnolia and Queen Anne Parks. It will need to meet all Park and National play area safety and accessibility requirements. We also want the improvements to be an attractive feature in your neighborhood.

Site analysis: The old play equipment was taken out about 2 years ago for safety reasons. We left the merry-go-round and installed swings that met safety standards. The site could include some or all of the following elements depending on neighborhood preference and budget: play equipment for various ages, a pathway to provide universal access, seating areas, possibly a sand play area, a small picnic area, stairway renovation to the lower park, invasive plant removal, and planting. Play options presented tonight for consideration were chosen because they represent equipment that is unique for your neighborhood.

Community comments:

- A list of good things to include: Spin thing (Skyride) climbing thing, boulders, web, slides, a main structure, climbing net, parallel bars and a track ride (zip line).
- In my experience, the web ball is not very forgiving and kids can get hurt on it.
- In reference to the NW Play Equipment board: I like the rock and the wiggly tunnel on main structure. Also a zip line would be great; you could do this on the hill. For example see the one at Lawton Elementary. Also like the Play Creation climbing wall.
- Will the trees be preserved? *Parks answer: Yes. We will have our tree crew do an assessment, some may need pruning. If any need to be removed because of disease or danger we have a policy to replace with 2 trees for each one removed.*
- I like View A on NW Play Equipment board # 2
- There is an area (describe) that has attracted transients – we have concerns on how to manage that; there have been needles left in the past. Blackberries have helped discourage that activity, am concerned about removal.
- Tagging/ Graffiti is common in the neighborhood, afraid this equipment will attract taggers. *Parks answer: That is a concern and a reality. The equipment has finishes that allow for graffiti removal.*

We have a policy to remove graffiti with gang, hateful or drug related content in 24 hours; the policy on removal of other graffiti is within 48 hours. We encourage you to call to make reports.

- Is water available for dogs? *Parks Answer: We can look into that.*
- Off-leash dogs can be a problem.
- Back in the bushes – bad things go on.
- I love the idea of a path for strollers – making it a circular path for kids on bikes would be nice.
- I like the picnic tables used at Ella Bailey. They have grates which are nice – cleaner and prevent graffiti.
- What happened to the old swings, we would like higher swings like the old kind? *Parks answer: They were removed for safety concerns, the new swings were sized for safety. With new safety surfacing and larger safety zones we could install larger swings here.*
- *Designer asks: Are you interested in curbs, seats or given the setting would you prefer to keep the site greener?* Audience answer:
 - Would like to stay green
 - Don't over power the area with concrete.
- Using certain trees can discourage lingering transients – think about using holly/roses, possibly NW natives to help with water conservation.
- In Germany they have play areas built into the tree tops with bridges etc. It would take a long time but you could grow trees to plan for that.
- Would you consider including lighting to discourage people from illegal activity? *Parks answer: Lighting can also attract it discouraged activities. Also the electric service is located far from the site.*
- I like the Ella Bailey seat walls where parents can see the whole play area, I would like seating to do that.
- I like Bayview Option 2 – the color goes with the green theme, expressed here.
- Yes! I like the use of Dark Green and Brown!
- After a while bright colors can be annoying on eyes.
- I would rather to look at green and brown from across the street, although some color does attract and excite kids.
- *Designer asks: what are your thoughts on roofs?* Audience response:
 - The old play equipment with roof was removed apparently for safety.
 - Use some roofs but not everywhere, also like open sky, like Sitelines Option #2
- Can we keep the merry-go round? I like it. *Parks answer: Yes, that is a possibility*
- *Designer comment – I would like to separate the equipment made for different age groups. Also would like to include equipment with ramps for Wheelchair access.*
- I am very supportive of climbing rock
- Kids like to climb all around on and under things, consider a climbing rock that also has a cave in it.

- I like teeter -totters
- Do provide a variety – different from Ella Bailey and other local parks.
- *Designer points out equipment with musical elements*
- I like musical elements, kids like songs and like to play songs and music. Very supportive of that.
- What will you use on the ground? *Parks Answer: Wood fiber under play equipment.*
- What is size of play area? *Parks Answer: About the size of existing*
- I like teeter totters.
- I like the Sitelines Option #2 (upper right corner).
- What is life expectancy of play equipment? *Parks Answer: It varies but is about 15 to 20 years.*
- Be careful where you put the Picnic Benches. The hill between playfield and park is a popular sledding area. You may want to move the path away from the base of hill.
- *Designer asks: We show a possible sand play area does anyone acre strongly about including that.*
Audience answer – No one feels it is needed.
- The large grass area is hard and you can already get across with a wheelchair across it easily
- The grass area is used for Frisbee, volleyball, etc.
- Include Parallel bars, maybe two sizes for big and small kids.

Meeting conclusion: These ideas will be used to develop a schematic design. We will bring that back to you. We'll schedule another meeting in about a month. Meeting notes will be on website, see reference on agenda, the new websites will be operational in about a week. Our plans are to get this design completed as soon as possible and to construct late this summer.